



HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Kents Hill Road, Benfleet, Essex SS7 5PX
Telephone: 01268 792231 Fax: 01268 759274
Email: admin@holyfamily.essex.sch.uk
www.holyfamily.essex.sch.uk



Headteacher Mr P.O'Kane

Newsletter 327 Friday 16th December 2016

We have had a quieter week in school than last week. There have been two Christmas singing engagements by Year 6 and the School Choir. On Thursday afternoon, Miss Fordham along with Mrs Duxbury, Mrs Hunter and Mrs Impey took our Year 6 class to Parklands Nursing Home to sing carols to the residents. The children sang beautifully and were a credit to the school. Afterwards, they chatted to the residents over refreshments and one of the residents said that the children sang so well, she wished they could record a CD for her! This afternoon, you will have seen the choir singing at the school gate to entertain everyone whilst at the same time raising money for Brentwood Catholic Children's Society.

The last few days of school will be very busy but will prepare us all well for the Christmas season:

Monday 19th December Class Christmas Fun Afternoon—your child's class teacher will have informed your child what is happening in their class on Monday afternoon. This year, there will not be a DJ in the hall (traditionally organised by the Development Fund). The children can bring in a change of clothes for the afternoon.

Tuesday 20th December We will be holding our Christingle service at 2.30pm in the school hall. All are welcome. Instructions on how to make a Christingle can be found under the Newsletters section of the school website—wrapped sweets are not suitable for Christingles. Children should bring the Christingle in to school on Tuesday morning. Please ensure that your child's Christingle is clearly labelled so that our Year 6 pupils can return each Christingle to its owner at the end of the school day. Thank you.

Wednesday 16th December The children may bring in a Christmas jumper and hat to wear for Christmas dinner. I know there are a number of families that like to make their own Christmas hats and as a school we love to see them and admire the creativity.

Victorian Day Our apologies to Michael Knowles in Year 1 who was awarded the "Best Dressed" award for his chimney sweep outfit. Well done Michael!

Parents running late We are happy for children of parents who are running late at the end of the school day to wait in the school office to be collected. However, unless it is impossible and we realise there may be occasions when this is the case, we would request that parents inform the school office by **3pm**. Otherwise it can cause logistical problems for teachers and other staff

when they are dismissing their class at the end of the school day. Thank you for your understanding and co-operation in this matter.

Brentwood Catholic Children's Society Advent Appeal Thank you all so much for the candle money boxes that have been returned to school. Amy Cullen was able to take them back to BCCS yesterday when she came for her weekly visit. We are happy to receive more filled money boxes up until Wednesday; they can also be handed in in the New Year. All the money boxes will be passed to Amy for the BCCS.

Brentwood Catholic Children's Society Tree of Angels The BCCS *Tree of Angels* is a way of remembering a loved one who is no longer with us. By registering with BCCS (01268 784544 or email: headoffice@bccs.org.uk) your loved one's name will be put on a symbolic angel that will be hung from a Christmas tree in one of the parish churches in our diocese. Your loved one's name will also be entered into the Book of Remembrance which will be bound and placed in the chapel at Childcare House, Little Wheatley Chase, Rayleigh.

Danbury 2017 Apologies that the meeting was cancelled last week; this will now be rearranged for early January.

School Health Drop-in service If you have concerns about your child's health then you can use the Drop-in service where no appointments are necessary. The limit is 15 minutes per child but for more in-depth problems please contact the clinic directly to speak to a member of the school nurse team.

The locations are: Central Canvey Primary Care Centre, Long Road, Canvey Island, SS8 OJA. Phone 01268 686041 2-4pm 5th & 19th January; 2nd & 23rd February; 16th March 2017.

Oak Tree Children's Centre, Grovewood Primary School, Grove Road, Rayleigh, SS6 8UA. Phone 01268 686041 10th & 24th January; 7th & 21st February; 7th & 21st March 2017.

Attendance Nursery 88.8% RF 92.1% 1F 93.7% 2F 92% 3W 98.7% 4D 98.6% 5LB 96.3% 6F 97.9% Well done to 3W for the best attendance last week.

Saint of the week On Tuesday, it was the Feast Day of St Lucy, a young woman who was tortured and martyred for the faith during one of imperial Rome's persecutions of Christians. According to tradition, she had her eyes gouged out, before being killed. She is the patron saint of the blind and those with eye troubles. In pictures and icons she is depicted with eyes on a plate (protector of sight) and holding a palm branch as a symbol of victory over evil. St Lucy is venerated as a saint by Catholics, Anglicans, Lutherans and Orthodox Christians. She is one of eight women commemorated by name in the Canon of the Mass.



Mr P. O'Kane
Headteacher



Diary Dates

Monday 19 th December	Children's Class Christmas Fun Afternoon
Tuesday 20 th December	Christingle Service, 2.30pm (Parents Welcome)
Wednesday 21 st December	Advent Reconciliation Service, 9.30am
Wednesday 21 st December	School Christmas Dinner
Wednesday 21 st December	Christmas Hat Assembly
Wednesday 21 st December	Carols Round the Tree, 2.30pm
Thursday 22 nd December 2016—Wednesday 4 th January 2017	Christmas Holidays
Thursday 5 th January 2017	First Day of Spring Term
Friday 6 th January 2017	Mass for the Feast of the Epiphany
Wednesday 18 th January 2017	Whole School Theatre Visit (Beauty & The Beast—Wednesday Players, Palace Theatre)
Monday 6 th February 2017	Year 6 Danbury Residential Trip
Friday 10 th February 2017	Year 6 Return from Danbury
Monday 13 th February—Friday 17 th February 2017	Half-Term Holiday
Wednesday 1 st March	Ash Wednesday—Lent Begins
Tuesday 21 st March 2017	Hot Cross Run (Catholic Schools' Cross Country Event) (tbc)
Monday 3 rd April—Friday 14 th April 2017	Easter Holidays
Sunday 9 th April 2017	Palm (Passion) Sunday—Start of Holy Week
Sunday 16 th April 2017	Easter Sunday
Monday 17 th April 2017	Public Holiday—School Closed
Tuesday 18 th April 2017	First Day of Summer Term
Monday 1 st May 2017	Public Holiday—School Closed
Monday 8 th May 2017	SATs Week Begins

Monday 29 th May- Friday 2 nd June 2017	Half-term Holiday
Thursday 20 th July 2017	Leavers' Mass (tbc)
Friday 21 st July 2017	Last day of the school year
Monday 24 th July 2017	Summer Holidays Begin

There is one more non-pupil day that needs to be set for 2016-2017 academic year

HEALTHY SCHOOLS POLICY APPENDIX ONE

The school is committed to: -

- Provide appropriate facilities for pupils eating packed lunches and ensure that free, fresh drinking water is available at all times.
- Work with parents to encourage packed lunches to meet the standards listed below.
- As fridge space is not available, pupils are advised to bring packed lunches in insulated bags with freezer blocks where possible.
- Wherever possible enable pupils eating packed lunches and pupils eating school lunches to sit together.

Packed lunches should include: -

- At least one portion of fruit (dried fruit: raisins, sultanas or other unprocessed dried fruit or a small tub of fruit in natural juice is also acceptable) and one portion of vegetables every day.
- Meat, fish, eggs or a non-dairy protein (e.g lentils, kidney beans, chickpeas, hummus, falafel) every day.
- Oily fish, such as salmon, at least once every three weeks.
- A starchy food such as any type of bread (white or wholegrain rolls, pitta bread or wraps), pasta, rice, couscous, noodles, potatoes or another cereal every day.
- A dairy food such as milk, cheese, yoghurt, *fromage frais* or custard every day.
- A drink of water, fruit juice or smoothie (maximum portion 150mls), semi skimmed, 1% or skimmed milk, yoghurt or another milk drink.

Packed lunches can occasionally include: -

- Meat products such as sausage rolls, individual pies, corned meat and sausages.
- Cereal bar, plain slice of cake or plain biscuit, but encourage your child to eat these as part of a meal.

Packed lunches should not include: -

- Salty snacks such as crisps
- Confectionary such as chocolate bars, chocolate biscuits, processed fruit bars or sweets.
- Sugary soft drinks such as squash, fizzy drinks (even if labelled as sugar-free, no added sugar or reduced sugar as these drinks can contribute to tooth decay and offer little nutritional value).